

Statewide Independent Living Council

Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2013

St. Michael, Spirit Lake Hotel

This meeting began at noon with a prayer led by Joe Lawrence in the Dakota language before lunch. A drum ceremony by a local drum group followed the prayer. Other guests present were:

Marshall Longie and Rick Walter – Spirit Lake 121 Project; Heidi Gustafson – DL IL Branch Office; and Nancy Lundon & Christie Lazette – DL VR Office

Pottery pots with tobacco were gifted to our Native guests. They were designed and made by Corey at Options. Options also paid for the lunches of our guests.

Call to Order: Dennis Lyon called the meeting to order at 1:10 at Spirit Lake Hotel in St. Michael, ND

Roll Call: Members Present: Dennis Lyon, Sandra Koffler, Trevor Vannett, Rod Gillund, Scott Burlingame, Peter Yung, Melvin Erdmann, Erik Williamson, Larry Thiele, Emma Kotzer, Diane Secaniek, and Jen Schill.

Members Absent: Joan Ehrhardt, Nate Aalgaard, Shannon Simonson and Jamie Hall.

Others Present: Royce Schultze, CIL Director; Helen Baumgartner, DSU; Patty Wanner, DSU; LaRae Gustafson, Options CIL; and John Johnson, Options CIL.

Guests and SILC members were introduced. Dennis Lyon went over the duties and responsibilities of the SILC members. John Johnson explained the services provided by the CILs. An opportunity for the guests to share the IL needs of those residing on the Spirit Lake Reservation was given. Marshall Longie expressed the need for accessible housing, including ramps to get into the homes and being able to access the home once inside. He also shared the concern that public buildings are not accessible. John shared that Options has an ADA specialist – Corey – who would be able to do a free assessment of homes and public buildings and design changes that would be needed to make them accessible. He would be able to give a rough cost of the changes. Heidi is then able to follow-up with the available funding streams to pay for the cost of the changes. Funding these alterations to the home is done on an individual basis. Assisting Veterans dealing the PTSD is also a need. Guests were encouraged to share any other IL needs they see in the area at any time.

Approval of Minutes: Jen pointed out that Russ Cusack's name was listed under "Other Members Present" for the SILC and under "SRC Members Present". His name should only have been listed once. Jen made a motion to approve the July minutes as corrected, seconded by Emma. Motion passed.

Correspondence: None

The Governance Committee handed out a Training and Technical Needs Assessment for all members to complete. A request to have the form completed by tomorrow was made by Royce.

Committee Breakout Sessions: Committees worked together on their assigned sections of the 704 Report and their work plans for the remainder of the day.

Friday, November 15th, 2013

Call to Order: Dennis called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

Roll Call: Members Present: Dennis Lyon, Sandra Koffler, Trevor Vannett, Rod Gillund, Scott Burlingame, Peter Yung, Melvin Erdmann, Erik Williamson, Larry Thiele, Emma Kotzer, Diane Secaniek, and Jen Schill.

Members Absent: Joan Ehrhardt, Nate Aalgaard, Shannon Simonson and Jamie Hall.

Others Present: Royce Schultze, CIL Director; Helen Baumgartner, DSU; Patty Wanner, DSU; & LaRae Gustafson, Options CIL.

Guests Present: Nancy Robertson, Tribal Secretary and Jen Hutchin, Program Director, who started working for Independence in August, 2013.

Director's Reports:

Royce – DCIL:

Set up a booth at Urban Harvest – Texas Roadhouse would assist in building ramps
KX “In the News” did a story on visitability
Did a presentation on universal design at Sanford for PTs & OTs – 47 attended
Interview with Mabu on IL Philosophy and CIL Services for DVRs annual report
Attended VRs annual conference
Attended Public Relations and Marketing conference in Minneapolis
Talked to the TBI Advisory Council on CIL Services – 27 attended
Had a class on Community Resources and Understanding your Disability
Had a class on How to Lower your Prescription Drug Costs – Shared information on companies that offer discounts – Discussed how to talk to doctors and pharmacists on obtaining lower prescription costs – 20 people attended
Met at the Community Bowl with the Project Director regarding the existing expansion – there will be accessible seating in the second level and there will be an elevator
Met with the architect on the expansion of the Civic Center. There will also be additional accessible parking spaces added.
Social and rec activities included mini golf, a picnic, nutrition classes, bubble up breakfast bake, baking cookies, Bingo and Chili and movie night
TBI social and rec included Moody Blues and an apple fest
Project Connect for Homeless – gave out blankets and held exit reviews
Staff participated in a commercial for MFP
Staff attended Medicaid Expansion training
Staff attended Living Well with a Disability training and will be offering the class. Some of the curriculum topics include physical activity, nutrition/eating well, problem solving, beating the blues and setting goals
TBI support group for 4 – 6 consumers. Held an in-service on current trends such as drugs, scams, burglaries, alcoholism, human trafficking and salesmen coming to your home looking for kids
Staff attended SHIC training
Attended a webinar on Social Security Disability – its impact on working and benefits
Attended a BCBS sponsored workshop on Medicare Part D
Held drivers training for 6 people – 1 passed and 5 are in progress
MFP success
Continue to do Coffee Club in Dickinson – Held presentations on storm/tornado watch, finances, fire & winter safety
Staff sits on new guardianship committee which is an extension of the ND Community of Practice Transition Advisory Council. Working on developing a document for parents to use at IEPs, to help educate and inform parents and children on guardianships – both limited and alternative. Another document will give a step by step process in pursuing a guardianship.
Had a booth at Fort Yates's Transition Fair, which was for students and the community

LaRae – Options:

Hired a new outreach staff in Carrington – she resigned after 3 months to work in County Social Svcs
John presented at the APRIL conference in Tulsa, OK on the ND Transportation Collaborative & on

How CILs can better serve Veterans

Provided training on CIL Services to several different agencies

Presented to a group of 18 landlords in collaboration with the GF Police Dept on Fair Housing, Landlord and Tenant Rights and Responsibilities, and Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications

Assisted 14 individuals with home accessibility design and/or funding information

Provided information to obtain a visual alarm for an apartment and residential accessible parking

Provided tech assistance on accessibility requirements & standards for remodeling to 7 organizations

Provided accessibility information to 2 regional building inspectors on accessible remodeling

Assisted a person who is deaf w/the funding & purchase of a visual door alarm, baby monitor & alarm clock

The 18th Annual Deer Hunt was cancelled due to the government shutdown. Twenty people were registered to hunt, one from Alabama

A fall picnic and games was held in Cavalier with 30 young adults with disabilities participating

Options started a rec/leisure group – Biking on the Greenway of GF/EGF for individuals w/disabilities

Dave sponsored Options' 28th annual dance with 200 people in attendance.

Provided information on how to assert rights to obtain a psychiatric service animal

Provided information on fragrance free rights under the ADA

Provided information on how to advocate for accommodations in higher education

Provided info on ADA rights regarding access to a playground for a son w/mobility limitations

Advocated w/Northern Valley Arts Council about granting disability related organizations receiving arts funding

Advocated for a person who is deaf needing fire alarms in their apartment – the landlord must provide

Conducted 3 pottery classes to 9 visually impaired elementary students

Have assisted 166 individuals with Medicare Part D enrollment with a goal of 260

Heidi – DL Office – is working with 10 individuals to build 9 ramps and 7 bathroom modifications.

Through MFP, she had a ramp funded and built in 12 hours!!!

Assisted a person with Crones Disease acquire Medicare Part D insurance – saving him \$64,000/yr

Advocated for additional QSP hours for a visually impaired person with an aneurism of the heart

Facilitates a weekly Schizophrenia Support Group in GF

Options staff provides a cooking class in DL at Prairie Heights with 9 or more attending

Peer-Visiting completed through direct services in working directly one-to-one w/staff or community

Two staff attended the VR annual conference

Six staff attended the HCBS workshop in Fargo

Participated as a board member in the High Plains Fair Housing Center meeting

Participated in the NCIL/APRIL veterans sub-committee for enhanced services for vets w/disabilities

Participate in local Greenway Committee to address accessibility issues

Collaborative meeting with new grantee for Brain Injury in ND (CILs will work collaboratively)

Member of the IPAT board, the Transition State Committee, the local Transition Committees in DL & GF, and ACT (A Community Team) in Grafton, Cavalier and GF

It is difficult to get a return phone call from contractors to get a bid on ramps & home modifications

There is a lack of QSPs in rural areas

Lack of hours for individuals who need QSPs

Lack of transportation in small communities

There is a long wait to receive Social Security benefits. Individuals do not have medical insurance

& can become homeless while they wait

There were 12 relocations in ND during the last FFY, w/5 of them being MFP relocations

There were 11 diversions in ND during the last FFY

Scott – Independence:

On October 17th, the 5th Annual IL Fair was held at the Select Inn in Minot. Over 100 people attended w/about 35 vendors

Held a panel discussion on IL for Veterans w/disabilities. A variety of organizations that serve Veterans and veterans w/disabilities talked about the ongoing needs of vets w/disabilities.

Held a panel discussion on IL in Indian Country. Had several reps from Ft Berthold and Turtle Mtn. Jamie Hall was included on the panel. Discussed the unique challenges faced by Native Americans w/disabilities

Held a community discussion in Bottineau on November 7th at United Parish Church. Discussed what is good in the community for PWD, what the community's needs are, and how Independence can help improve people's lives. An IL Fair will be planned for the area next spring. Independence may be able to use some office space in the church until the branch office is ready

The Youth Transition curriculum was changed by Jamie over the summer, creating a second generation curriculum for those who have attended the first curriculum. Jamie is in 10 schools, meeting with 3, 4 or up to 60 students in one day.

Currently very active in Medicare Part D

Assisted with advocacy issues such as bullying in schools, companion animal issues, etc.

Currently in the process of interviewing for an IL Specialist in Bottineau

Learning more about the transportation needs in Minot. Rhonda and Dawn have been riding the fixed route system, which few people with wheelchairs do. The goal is to learn as much as possible, then develop a plan to address any problems that are apparent. The next step in the process is to find others who use wheelchairs and teach them how to use the fixed route.

Monitoring the progress in the U.S. Senate of the United Nations Treaty on the Rights of Persons w/Disabilities. Have been asking people to contact Sen. Hoeven's office in support of the treaty. Sen. Hoeven voted against it last time. The treaty would expand the ADA to the rest of the world.

Working on new accessibility surveys. In the past few months, have done them at 5 different Community Kitchens, Rolla City Hall, Drake City Hall & the YMCA. The YMCA has agreed to look at funding an elevator to make their whole shelter accessible.

Jill, Jamie, Scott and the newest board member, Kimi, attended the APRIL conference in Tulsa OK in October. Jamie presented on starting a Youth Transition Program. She co-presented with a CIL employee from NC. Despite never having met before, and having done all their planning via Skype, they did a great job. Kimi was the first youth from ND to ever attend the Youth Conference. She won a prize for making the most contacts with non-youth from around the country. For this, she won a pretty cool prize package!!!

Nate – Freedom: No report in Nate's absence

Internal Affairs Committee: Dennis reported that the Internal Affairs committee completed their sections of the 704 Report. Dennis will draft the work plan and get it to Helen.

Governance Committee: Royce reported that the committee met on October 22nd. The committee will need to do a new member orientation at another time. He asked that the Training and Technical Needs Assessment be completed so it can be compiled for the 704 Report. Shannon Simonson has

been appointed to the SILC to represent Region 82. We now have a full council for the first time in years. Diane made a motion to reappoint Scott, Rod, Trevor, Emma and Peter for another term, it was seconded by Melvin. Motion passed. The committee is working on a Conflict of Interest statement to be signed by the members of the SILC. It should be finalized by the February meeting. The committee is also working on an annual survey to be completed by the members expressing the effectiveness of the SILC. This should also be finalized by February. The Governance Committee presented Jen Schill as their nomination for Vice President. Dennis called for further nominations. Another call for nominations was made. A third and final call for nominations was made. Trevor made a motion to cease nominations, seconded by Peter. Motion carried. Jen was unanimously elected as the SILC Vice President. Royce will send the Governance Committee work plan and 704 changes in to Helen.

External Affairs Committee: Worked on the 704 Report. Scott will send the changes to the 704 and the work plan to Helen.

After all the committees have the 704 Report changes to Helen, the changes will be made and the 704 will be sent out to the SILC for review and approval. It will then be submitted to RSA. Dennis encouraged the SILC to read the SILCs 704 and the CILs 704 when they are sent out in late December or early January. Any questions regarding the CILs 704s will be addressed at the February meeting.

SRC Report: Rod reported that the SRC has been heavily recruiting new members. A CAP Report was given at the last meeting. The SRC looked at the Client Satisfaction Surveys. Some changes were made to the survey in hopes that the return rate will be increased. The last VR conference was held in Bismarck and Rod commented that the speakers and the conference were excellent.

Region 8 Conference Calls: Rod informed the SILC that he and Helen participate in a monthly Region 8 conference call discussing various SILC issues that come up. He feels he has gained considerable knowledge from these calls and they are valuable.

Ideas for IL Needs Statewide: LaRae mentioned that working with Veterans, Native Americans and youth ages 0 – 5 years of age should be the areas the SILC focuses on. It would be nice to find out what the needs are in each region in each of these areas and work on them. It was also suggested that we go to each of the reservations for our quarterly SILC meetings as we did to Spirit Lake to keep the momentum going that we have established with this meeting. Rod challenged each SILC member to speak in their community regarding Independent Living any opportunity they get. Erik encouraged people with disabilities to speak up for themselves and do some self-advocacy. Dennis asked the CIL Directors to let members of the SILC know when there are local meetings regarding transportation, accessible housing, etc., so that members can attend these meetings in their community.

Order of Selection: Peter updated the Council on the Order of Selection process VR is currently in. As of November 1st, there were 211 people on the waiting list, with none in Priority Category 1. The goal is to have no one on the waiting list by March of 2014.

CIL Goals: Scott will get the goals for number of consumers receiving IL services for FFY 2014 to Helen as soon as he gets a report from all of the Centers.

Next Meeting: The next SILC meeting will be in Fargo on February 20th and 21st.

Adjournment: Trevor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.